

the war profiteering in the rebuilding of Iraq, the billions that are being wasted, but how are the troops doing over there on the ground? Not so well, it turns out. Thirty to 40,000 of our troops cannot get \$500 pieces of body armor. They are working with flak vests from the Vietnam era which will not stop an AK-47 bullet. We have Humvees with canvas side curtains. Some of our troops are being sent over there with jungle camouflage. We cannot afford that desert camouflage.

How is it with the buildup for months by this administration, a \$380 Pentagon budget, \$80 billion appropriated by Congress last April for this war, that the Bush administration, Secretary Rumsfeld in all of his great wisdom, could not have thought to buy our young men and women body armor, to give them armored Humvees, to get them desert fatigues, boots and sidearms that work, and other critical supplies? They said we just cannot afford it, we need more money, then maybe we will give the young men and women what they need.

Mr. Speaker, they can find that money. It is about 2 minutes' spending at the Pentagon.

□ 1015

REMEMBERING A TRUE SOUTH CAROLINA HERO, SERGEANT ANTHONY O. THOMPSON

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to report the death of a true South Carolina hero, Sergeant Anthony O. Thompson. As a 26-year-old artillery fire support specialist in the United States Army, Sergeant Thompson proudly represented not only our State and Nation but all the people of South Carolina.

As a native of Orangeburg County, he showed immense potential even as a teenager. Graduating from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School in 1995, he departed with honors and shortly thereafter entered the Army.

After serving in the Army for nearly 7 years, Sergeant Thompson began his quest in Iraq to defend our Nation from terrorists and engage in the War on Terrorism. Sergeant Anthony Thompson, killed in combat, was the second serviceman from Orangeburg County to die during service in Iraq and the seventh from the State of South Carolina.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in extending condolences to Sergeant Thompson's friends and family, as he was a dedicated hero to our State and Nation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

MANDATED TRAINING FOR AIRCREWS

(Mr. MICHAUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, 10 days after terrorist attacks on September 11, the President told this body, "We will come together to improve air safety and take new measures to prevent hijacking."

Yet, 2 years later, our first line of defense in the air has been not yet upgraded. The flight attendants who were the first victims of the tragic accidents on that day and who are still called upon to defend passengers lives have not been given the new defensive training that they need.

Working together in committee, Members of both parties drafted legislation to address this shortfall and mandate proper defense training for aircrews. Four hundred eighteen Members of the House agreed.

Unfortunately, through the FAA reauthorization bill, House leadership has now removed the strong mandate and replaced it with a statement that TSA "may" provide training. This undermines our bipartisan work, it undermines the expectation clearly stated by the President, and it undermines the Nation's safety.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to change the language back. There should be no uncertainty, no delay. Mandated training for aircrews is the will of this Congress and the will of our constituents.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST DUSTIN K. MCGAUGH

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Specialist Dustin McGaugh, who grew up in Springdale, Arkansas. Specialist McGaugh was killed in a "friendly fire" accident in Balad, Iraq, late last week.

Motivated by a desire to serve and be a part of something important, Specialist McGaugh enlisted in the Army prior to the September 11 attacks and was so intent on becoming a soldier that he completed his last 3 weeks of basic training with a broken shinbone.

Specialist McGaugh put himself in harm's way so that the world could be a better place, and he did so in a manner that was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers. While in Iraq he told his family that his unit often came under fire. However, this did not stop him from doing his mission. In fact, it seemed to have encouraged him to reach out to the Iraqi people. His fellow soldiers said that, regardless of the dangers, Specialist McGaugh could often be found handing out candy to Iraqi children.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Dustin McGaugh made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Specialist McGaugh's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

VOTE NO ON \$87 BILLION FOR IRAQ

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am here to do a public service announcement. I want all of you to get your rubber stamp ready. We are here for 24 hours this week, and next week, when we arrive on Wednesday, within 24 hours we will have given the President \$87 billion. That is what he wants in a failed policy. We are going to buy cell phones at \$6,000 a copy. The ones we have here cost \$1,500. Why are they \$6,000 in Iraq? Why are we spending \$100 million in a witness protection program or putting in a 911 system or all the foolishness in that bill?

There will be no talk tomorrow about amendments in the Committee on Appropriations. We ought to figure out what the President needs until December and give it to him then, and we will come back when he has a plan.

He announced today they are not going to go for a resolution in the United Nations. We are going it alone, and the American taxpayers are being asked to suck it up again, give him \$87 billion, do not ask him what he did with it, just rubber stamp it. That is wrong. Just vote no.

THE ECONOMY

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last week we received very exciting and positive news that the Bush economic plan is working. Both business and individuals are seeing an upturn in the economy. In September, payrolls increased by 57,000 jobs, showing increased confidence on behalf of job providers. Personal income and personal spending were both up, indicating increased consumer confidence in the economy. Clearly, the tax cuts are working, and our economy is improving.

But we do have more work to do. We must pass a comprehensive energy policy to help fuel our economy. We must open more markets abroad to export our manufactured goods. We must rein in out-of-control litigation, which is a hidden tax on our economy. We must make health care more affordable for families and businesses. And, finally, we must make the Bush tax cuts permanent so that there is certainty for families and small businesses as the recovery moves forward.

We know what we have to do to further expand our economy. It is time to get the job done.

HONORING CARL D. ASHLEY

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)